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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

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The examiner is again respectfully requested to reconsider her rejection of claim 1 as being unpatentable over Brochu (US 2004/0187394) in view of Meckstroth (US 6412228) as applied under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of the following additional facts.

2/22/07

Claim 1 now in the application calls for "...the bottom wall of the channel (to be) aligned with the panel...". The word 'align' as defined by the Webster-Merriam dictionary means 'to bring into line or alignment'. The word 'alignment' is defined as 'the state of being aligned'. So the channel being aligned with the panel is in alignment with the panel or in line with it. The word 'line' is defined as 'a straight (or curved) geometric element that is generated by a point and that has extension only along the path of the point'. The word 'straight' is defined as 'being free of curves, bends, angles or irregularities' and is also defined as 'being generated by a point moving in the same direction and expressed by a linear equation'.

From the common dictionary definition of the word 'aligned', the bottom wall of applicant's channel is in line with the panel, the bottom wall and panel both lying on a line generated by a point moving in the same direction and expressed by a linear equation.

The examiner has stated that the bottom wall (76) of the channel in Meckstroth is aligned with the main section (45, 68, 71). According to the definition of 'aligned' this is not a correct statement. The main section is not 'straight'. A portion (52) of the main section is 'straight' but the bottom wall (76) is not in line with it. The other portion (68, 71) of the main section is an irregular S curve and the bottom wall (76) is not even 'aligned' with the end of this irregular curve (the wall 76 extends off at an angle). The bottom wall (76) may form an extension of the irregular curve (68, 71) but it is certainly not 'aligned' with it. It is noted

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